

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2. (canceled)

Claim 3. (previously canceled)

Claim 4-7. (canceled)

Claim 8. (original) A method of allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of said programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, said method comprising the steps of:

prioritizing each of said programs by assigning to each of said programs one of a plurality of priority levels, said plurality of priority levels including a high priority level and progressively lower priority levels;

dividing said bandwidth so that each program category receives a segment of said bandwidth;

allocating a portion of said segments of bandwidth to high priority level programs in each category; and

continuing said allocating step with progressively lower priority levels programs until at least one of the following conditions occurs:

all of said programs are allocated,

all of said bandwidth is allocated.

Claim 9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time.

Claim 10. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of prioritizing uses an algorithm to weigh programs watched information when determining a program's priority.

Claim 11. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of prioritizing uses an algorithm to weigh marketing information when determining a program's priority.

Claim 12. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the high priority level corresponds to programs included in one cable television service and a lower priority level corresponds to programs included in a different cable television service.

Claim 13. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein each priority level includes a different set of programs from a variety of categories, and wherein the high priority level includes a first finite number of programs from each of the plurality of categories and a lower priority level includes a second finite number of different programs from each of the plurality of categories.

Claim 14. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the high priority level corresponds to cable television programs and a lower priority level corresponds to pay-per-view programs.

Claim 15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein an even lower priority level corresponds to high definition television programs.

Claim 16. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the high priority level corresponds to sports-related television programs and a lower priority level corresponds to news-related television programs.

Claim 17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein an even lower priority level corresponds to documentaries.

Claim 18. (original) A method of transmitting a plurality of programs to a cable headend, each of said plurality of programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, said method comprising the steps of:

prioritizing each of said programs by assigning to each of said programs one of a plurality of priority levels, said plurality of priority levels including a high priority level and progressively lower priority levels;

forming a plurality of signals, each of said signals comprising programs corresponding to a single priority level;

appending a header to each of said signals, wherein said header identifies said priority level for a corresponding signal, thereby enabling recognition by said cable headend;

dividing bandwidth so that each program category receives a segment of said bandwidth;

allocating a portion of said segments of bandwidth to signals comprising high priority level programs in each category;

continuing said allocating step with signals comprising progressively lower priority level programs until at least one of the following conditions occurs:

- all of the signals are allocated; and
- all of said bandwidth is allocated; and

transmitting each of said headers and said corresponding signals to said cable headend.

Claim 19. (original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

digitizing each of said headers and said corresponding signals into digitized signals;

compressing the digitized signals into compressed signals; and

combining the compressed signals with a program information signal.

Claim 20. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the high priority level corresponds to programs included in a cable television service and a lower priority level corresponds to programs included in a different cable television service.

Claim 21. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein each priority level includes a different set of programs from a variety of categories, and wherein the first priority level includes a first finite number of programs from each of the plurality of categories and the second priority level includes a second finite number of remaining programs from each of the plurality of categories.

Claim 22. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the high priority level corresponds to cable television programs and a lower priority level corresponds to pay-per-view programs.

Claim 23. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the high priority level corresponds to sports-related television programs and a lower priority level corresponds to news-related television programs.

Claim 24. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the high priority level corresponds to television programs available during a specified period of time and a lower priority level corresponds to television programs available during a different period of time.

Claim 25. (original) A method of transmitting programs to a plurality of transponders, said method comprising the steps of:

- prioritizing each of said programs by assigning to each of said programs one of a plurality of priority levels, said plurality of priority levels including a high priority level and progressively lower priority levels;

- forming a plurality of signals, each of said signals comprising programs corresponding to a single priority level;

- allocating a portion of bandwidth to signals comprising high priority level programs;

- continuing said allocating step with signals comprising progressively lower priority level programs until at least one of the following conditions occurs:

- all of the signals are allocated; and

- all of said bandwidth is allocated; and

- transmitting said plurality of signals to said plurality of transponders so that none of said transponders receives more than one of said signals.

Claims 26-27 (previously canceled)

Claim 28. (original) The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of appending a header to each of said signals, wherein said header identifies said priority level for a corresponding signal, thereby enabling recognition by said transponder.

Claim 29. (original) The method of claim 28, further comprising the steps of:
digitizing each of said headers and said corresponding signals into digitized signals;
compressing the digitized signals into compressed signals; and
combining the compressed signals with a program information signal.

Claim 30. (original) The method of claim 28 further comprising the step of dynamically changing bandwidth allocation for at least one of said signals.

Claim 31. (original) A method of transmitting a plurality of programs in a first amount of bandwidth for reception by a first cable headend, and in a second amount of bandwidth for a second cable headend, said method comprising the steps of:
prioritizing each of said programs by assigning to each of said programs one of a plurality of priority levels, said plurality of priority levels including a high priority level and progressively lower priority levels;
allocating said first amount of bandwidth to high priority level programs in each category;
continuing said first amount of bandwidth allocation step with said progressively lower priority level programs until at least one of the following conditions occurs:
all of the programs are allocated;
all of said first amount of bandwidth is allocated;
allocating said second amount of bandwidth to high priority level programs in each category;
continuing said second amount of bandwidth allocation step with said progressively lower priority level programs until at least one of the following conditions occurs:
all of the programs are allocated;

all of said second amount of bandwidth is allocated;
transmitting the programs in said first amount of bandwidth to said first cable headend; and
transmitting the programs in said second amount of bandwidth to said second cable headend.

Claim 32. (previously added) The method according to claim 30, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation includes varying a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs.

Claim 33. (previously added) The method according to claim 30, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

Claim 34. (previously added) The method according to claim 33, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

Claim 35. (previously added) The method according to claim 33, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

Claim 36. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 2;~~ A method of allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of said programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting specific programs received from television programming sources;
allocating a segment of the bandwidth to the specifically selected programs; and
continuing said allocating step with additional selected programs until at least one of the following conditions occurs:
all of said programs are allocated,
all of said bandwidth is allocated

wherein the step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time,
and wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes
varying a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs.

Claim 37. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 2,~~ A method of allocating
bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of said programs corresponding to one of a plurality
of categories, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting specific programs received from television programming sources;
allocating a segment of the bandwidth to the specifically selected programs; and
continuing said allocating step with additional selected programs until at least one
of the following conditions occurs:

all of said programs are allocated,

all of said bandwidth is allocated

wherein the step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time,
and wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes
allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes
within one of the selected programs over time.

Claim 38. (previously added) The method according to claim 37, wherein said changes
occur frame to frame.

Claim 39. (previously added) The method according to claim 37, wherein said changes are
changes in visual detail.

Claim 40. (previously added) The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of
dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes varying the compression ratio
of at least one of the selected programs.

Claim 41. (previously added) The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of
dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes allocating bandwidth to at

least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

Claim 42. (previously added) The method according to claim 41, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

Claim 43. (previously added) The method according to claim 41, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

Claim 44. (previously added) The method according to claim 18, wherein the step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time.

Claim 45. (previously added) The method according to claim 44, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation includes varying a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs.

Claim 46. (previously added) The method according to claim 44, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

Claim 47. (previously added) The method according to claim 46, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

Claim 48. (previously added) The method according to claim 46, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

Claim 49. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~27~~ 159, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation includes varying a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs.

Claim 50. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~27~~ 159, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

Claim 51. (previously added) The method according to claim 50, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

Claim 52. (previously added) The method according to claim 50, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

Claims 53-60. (canceled)

Claim 61. (previously amended) A computer assisted packaging system for generating program control information, packaging programs and for allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs comprising:

- a multiplexer for receiving at least one program signal and at least one program control signal and for allocating a portion of segments of bandwidth to selected programs;

- a delivery control processor unit connected to said multiplexer, whereby said program signals and said program control signals are multiplexed by said multiplexer; and

- a central processing unit connected to said delivery control processor unit, whereby said delivery control processor unit receives commands from said central processing unit.

Claim 62. (previously added) The system according to claim 61, further comprising at least one workstation connected to said central processing unit for allowing a packager or programmer to interface with said computer assisted packaging system.

Claim 63. (previously added) The system according to claim 61, further comprising a video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time.

Claim 64. (previously added) The system according to claim 63, wherein said video/audio equipment dynamically changes bandwidth allocation by changing a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs, whereby programs with higher compression ratios require lower bit rates and less bandwidth, and programs with lower compression ratios require higher bit rates and more bandwidth.

Claim 65. (previously added) The system according to claim 63, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

Claim 66. (previously added) The system according to claim 65, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

Claim 67. (previously added) The system according to claim 65, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

Claim 68. (previously added) The system according to claim 61, further comprising at least one database connected to said central processing unit, whereby said central processing unit processes information within each of said databases.

Claim 69. (previously added) The system according to claim 68, wherein said at least one database further comprises an operations center database.

Claim 70. (previously added) The system according to claim 68, wherein said at least one database further comprises a cable franchise information database.

Claim 71. (previously added) The system according to claim 68, wherein said at least one database further comprises a local video storage database.

Claim 72. (previously added) A computer assisted packaging system for allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of the programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, comprising:

- a central processing unit for selecting programs received from television programming sources;

- a delivery control processor unit connected to said central processing unit; and

- a multiplexer connected to said delivery control processor unit for allocating a portion of said segments of bandwidth to said selected programs and continuing to allocate segments of bandwidth until either all the programs are allocated bandwidth or all the bandwidth is allocated.

Claim 73. (previously added) The system according to claim 72, further comprising a video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time.

Claim 74. (previously added) The system according to claim 73, wherein said video/audio equipment dynamically changes bandwidth allocation by changing a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs, whereby programs with higher compression ratios require lower bit rates and less bandwidth, and programs with lower compression ratios require higher bit rates and more bandwidth.

Claim 75. (previously added) The system according to claim 73, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

Claim 76. (previously added) The system according to claim 75, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

Claim 77. (previously added) The system according to claim 75, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

Claim 78. (previously added) The system according to claim 72, wherein said central processing unit further comprises an algorithm for selecting said programs.

Claim 79. (previously added) A computer assisted packaging system for allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of the programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, comprising:

- a central processing unit for selecting the programs and also for dividing the bandwidth so that each of the program categories receives a segment of the bandwidth;

- a delivery control processor unit connected to said central processing unit; and

- a multiplexer connected to said delivery control processor unit for allocating a portion of said segments of bandwidth to the selected programs in at least one of the categories.

Claim 80. (previously added) The system according to claim 79, further comprising a video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time.

Claim 81. (previously added) The system according to claim 80, wherein said video/audio equipment dynamically changes the bandwidth allocation by changing a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs, whereby programs with higher compression ratios require lower bit rates and less bandwidth, and programs with lower compression ratios require higher bit rates and more bandwidth.

Claim 82. (previously added) The system according to claim 80, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

Claim 83. (previously added) The system according to claim 82, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

Claim 84. (previously added) The system according to claim 82, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

Claim 85. (previously added) The system according to claim 79, wherein said central processing unit dynamically changes the bandwidth by varying a number of the selected programs within at least one of the selected categories.

Claim 86. (previously added) The system according to claim 79, wherein said central processing unit further comprises an algorithm for selecting said programs.

Claim 87. (previously added) A computer assisted packaging system for allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs according to claim 59, wherein said central processing unit further assigns priority levels to the programs by assigning to each of said programs a priority level from a plurality of priority levels, said plurality of priority levels includes a high priority level and progressively lower priority levels and also for dividing the bandwidth so that each program category receives a segment of the bandwidth; and

said multiplexer further allocates a portion of said segments of bandwidth to selected programs in each of the categories with highest of said priority levels and continues to allocate segments of bandwidth to progressively lower priority level programs in each of the categories.

Claim 88. (previously added) The system according to claim 87, further comprising a video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time.

Claim 89. (previously added) The system according to claim 88, wherein said video/audio equipment changes the bandwidth allocation over time by changing a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs, whereby programs with higher compression ratios require lower bit rates and less bandwidth, and programs with lower compression ratios require higher bit rates and more bandwidth.

Claim 90. (previously added) The system according to claim 88, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

Claim 91. (previously added) The system according to claim 90, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

Claim 92. (previously added) The system according to claim 90, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

Claim 93. (previously added) The system according to claim 87, wherein said central processing unit further comprises an algorithm for assigning said priority levels.

Claim 94. (previously added) The system according to claim 87, wherein said central processing unit appends a header to all the selected programs with the same priority level, wherein said appended header identifies said priority level for the program.

Claim 95. (previously added) A system for allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of said programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, comprising:

an operations center comprising a computer assisted packaging system;

said computer assisted packaging system comprising:

a central processing unit for selecting programs received from television programming sources;

a delivery control processor unit connected to said central processing unit; and

a multiplexer connected to said delivery control processor unit for allocating a portion of said segments of bandwidth to the selected programs.

Claim 96. (previously added) The system according to claim 95, further comprising a video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time.

Claim 97. (previously added) The system according to claim 96, wherein said video/audio equipment dynamically changes bandwidth allocation by changing a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs, whereby programs with higher compression ratios require lower bit rates and less bandwidth, and programs with lower compression ratios require higher bit rates and more bandwidth.

Claim 98. (previously added) The system according to claim 96, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

Claim 99. (previously added) The system according to claim 98, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

Claim 100. (previously added) The system according to claim 98, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

Claim 101. (previously added) The system according to claim 95, wherein said central processing unit further comprises an algorithm for selecting said programs.

Claim 102. (previously added and amended) The system for allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs according to claim 95, wherein said central processing unit also divides the bandwidth so that each of the program categories receives a segment of the bandwidth.

Claim 103. (previously added) The system according to claim 102, further comprising a video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time.

Claim 104. (previously added) The system according to claim 103, wherein said video/audio equipment dynamically changes bandwidth allocation by changing a compression ratio of at least

one of the selected programs, whereby programs with higher compression ratios require lower bit rates and less bandwidth, and programs with lower compression ratios require higher bit rates and more bandwidth.

Claim 105. (previously added) The system according to claim 103, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

Claim 106. (previously added) The system according to claim 105, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

Claim 107. (previously added) The system according to claim 105, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

Claim 108. (previously added) The system according to claim 102, wherein said central processing unit dynamically changes bandwidth by varying a number of selected programs within at least one of the selected categories.

Claim 109. (previously added) The system according to claim 102, wherein said central processing unit further comprises an algorithm for selecting said programs.

Claim 110. (previously added) A system for allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of said programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, comprising:

- an operations center comprising a computer assisted packaging system;

- said computer assisted packaging system comprising:

- a central processing unit for assigning priority levels to the programs by assigning to each of the programs a priority level from a plurality of priority levels, said plurality of priority levels includes a high priority level and progressively lower priority levels and also for dividing the bandwidth so that each program category receives a segment of the bandwidth;

- a delivery control processor unit connected to said central processing unit; and

a multiplexer connected to said delivery control processor unit for allocating a portion of said segments of bandwidth to the programs in each of the categories with highest of said priority levels and continuing to allocate said segments of bandwidth to progressively lower priority level programs in each of the categories.

Claim 111. (previously added) The system according to claim 110, further comprising a video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time.

Claim 112. (previously added) The system according to claim 111, wherein said video/audio equipment dynamically changes bandwidth allocation by changing a compression ratio of each of the programs, whereby programs with higher compression ratios require lower bit rates and less bandwidth, and programs with lower compression ratios require higher bit rates and more bandwidth.

Claim 113. (previously added) The system according to claim 111, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

Claim 114. (previously added) The system according to claim 113, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

Claim 115. (previously added) The system according to claim 113, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

Claim 116. (previously added) The system according to claim 110, wherein said central processing unit further comprises an algorithm for assigning said priority levels.

Claim 117. (previously added) The system according to claim 110, wherein said central processing unit appends a header to all the selected programs with the same priority level, wherein said appended header identifies said priority level for the program.

Claim 118. (previously added) The system according to claim 117, further comprising at least one cable headend, wherein each of said cable headends receives said programs from said operations center according to said assigned headers.

Claim 119. (previously added) The system according to claim 110, further comprising at least one transponder for receiving programs for one of said assigned priority levels from said operations center.

Claim 120. (previously added) The system according to claim 119, further comprising at least one cable headend, wherein each of said cable headends receives said programs from at least one of said transponders according to said assigned priority levels.

Claim 121. (previously added) The system according to claim 119, further comprising at least one cable headend and at least one transponder, wherein each of said cable headends receives said programs from said transponders according to customized priority.

Claim 122. (previously added) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of prioritizing uses an algorithm to weigh consumer demand when determining a program's priority.

Claim 123. (previously added) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation on demand.

Claim 124. (previously added) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation based on consumer demand.

Claim 125. (previously added) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation in real-time.

Claim 126. (previously added) The method of claim 18, wherein said step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation on demand.

Claim 127. (previously added) The method of claim 18, wherein said step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation based on consumer demand.

Claim 128. (previously added) The method of claim 18, wherein said step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation in real-time.

Claim 129. (currently amended) The method of claim 27 159, wherein said bandwidth allocation is dynamically changed on demand.

Claim 130. (currently amended) The method of claim 27 159, wherein said bandwidth allocation is dynamically changed based on consumer demand.

Claim 131. (currently amended) The method of claim 27 159, wherein said bandwidth allocation is dynamically changed in real-time.

Claim 132. (previously added) The method of claim 30, wherein said bandwidth allocation is dynamically changed on demand.

Claim 133. (previously added) The method of claim 30, wherein said bandwidth allocation is dynamically changed based on consumer demand.

Claim 134. (previously added) The method of claim 30, wherein said bandwidth allocation is dynamically changed in real-time.

Claim 135. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 55,~~ A method of allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of said programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting programs received from television programming sources; and
allocating bandwidth to the categories from whence the selected programs correspond
wherein said step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over
time for at least one of the categories of programming, and wherein said bandwidth allocation is
dynamically changed on demand.

Claim 136. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 55;~~ A method of allocating bandwidth
to a plurality of programs, each of said programs corresponding to one of a plurality of
categories, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting programs received from television programming sources; and
allocating bandwidth to the categories from whence the selected programs correspond
wherein said step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over
time for at least one of the categories of programming, and wherein said bandwidth allocation is
dynamically changed based on consumer demand.

Claim 137. (previously added and currently amended) ~~The method of claim 55;~~ A method of
allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of said programs corresponding to one of a
plurality of categories, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting programs received from television programming sources; and
allocating bandwidth to the categories from whence the selected programs correspond
wherein said step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over
time for at least one of the categories of programming, and wherein said bandwidth allocation is
dynamically changed in real-time.

Claim 138. (previously added) The system of claim 61, further comprising video/audio
equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth
allocation on demand.

Claim 139. (previously added) The system of claim 61, further comprising video/audio
equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth
allocation based on consumer demand.

Claim 140. (previously added) The system of claim 61, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation in real-time.

Claim 141. (previously added) The system of claim 72, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation on demand.

Claim 142. (previously added) The system of claim 72, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation based on consumer demand.

Claim 143. (previously added) The system of claim 72, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation in real-time.

Claim 144. (previously added) The system of claim 79, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation on demand.

Claim 145. (previously added) The system of claim 79, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation based on consumer demand.

Claim 146. (previously added) The system of claim 79, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation in real-time.

Claim 147. (previously added) The method of claim 87, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation on demand.

Claim 148. (previously added) The system of claim 87, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation based on consumer demand.

Claim 149. (previously added) The system of claim 87, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation in real-time.

Claim 150. (previously added) The system of claim 95, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation on demand.

Claim 151. (previously added) The system of claim 95, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation based on consumer demand.

Claim 152. (previously added) The system of claim 95, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation in real-time.

Claim 153. (previously added) The system of claim 102, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation on demand.

Claim 154. (previously added) The system of claim 102, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation based on consumer demand.

Claim 155. (previously added) The system of claim 102, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation.

Claim 156. (previously added) The system of claim 110, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation on demand.

Claim 157. (previously added) The system of claim 110, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation based on consumer demand.

Claim 158. (previously added) The system of claim 110, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation in real-time.

Claim 159. (currently added) A method of transmitting programs to a plurality of transponders, said method comprising the steps of:

- prioritizing each of said programs by assigning to each of said programs one of a plurality of priority levels, said plurality of priority levels including a high priority level and progressively lower priority levels;

- forming a plurality of signals, each of said signals comprising programs corresponding to a single priority level;

- allocating a portion of bandwidth to signals comprising high priority level programs;

- dynamically changing bandwidth allocation for at least one of said signals;

- continuing said allocating step with signals comprising progressively lower priority level programs until at least one of the following conditions occurs:

- all of the signals are allocated; and

- all of said bandwidth is allocated; and

transmitting said plurality of signals to said plurality of transponders so that none of said transponders receives more than one of said signals.